

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 A-01 OPR-02

OC-05 CCO-00 SY-05 CPR-01 USSS-00 EAE-00 /044 W

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O 100926Z FEB 76 CORRECTED COPY FOR MCN

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4538G

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0673

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, SN

SUBJ: VICE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

REFS: (A) STATE 031841; (B) STATE 29889

1. EMBASSY HAS ADVISED MFA OF CHANGES IN ARRIVAL TIME AS SET FORTH REF B AND REQUESTED THAT VICE PRESIDENT'S AIR-PLANE BE PERMITTED TO LAND AT CIVILIAN PAYA LEBAR AIRPORT WHICH IS MUCH NEARER DOWNTOWN AREA THAN MILITARY AIRPORTS.

2. FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY'S SUGGESTIONS FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM IN SINGAPORE:
MARCH 28 (SUNDAY MORNING) ARRIVAL AT 9:50 A.M. FOLLOWED BY CHECK IN AT SINGAPORE HILTON; (EXPERIENCE OF MOST RECENT VIP VISITS INDICATE HILTON HAS BEST ALL AROUND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR VISIT OF THIS KIND); BRIEFING BY COUNTRY TEAM AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE FOLLOWED BY LUNCH HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR AND ATTENDED BY LEADING SINGAPOREAN PERSONALITIES.

3. SUNDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAM COULD INCLUDE EITHER A VISIT TO JURONG INDUSTRIAL ESTAGE WHERE VICE PRESIDENT WOULD RECEIVE BRIEFING ON HOW GOS PLANNED AND EXECUTED ITS REMARKABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PLUS A TOUR OF THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE WHERE MANY AMERICAN FACTORIES ARE LOCATED, OR A TOUR OF SINGAPORE'S IMPRESSIVE HARBOR IN A SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT LAUNCH COMBINED WITH A VISIT TO SENTOSA ISLAND, A RECENTLY DEVELOPED TOURIST ATTRACTION WHERE THERE ARE FORMER BRITISH MILITARY
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INSTALLATIONS AND A CORRALARIUM. EITHER OF ABOVE EVENTS WOULD

REQUIRE ABOUT TWO YOURS AND RETURN TO HOTEL AT ABOUT 4:30 P.M. FOLLOWING BRIEF TIME TO REFRESH, EMBASSY SUGGESTS VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. ROCKEFELLER ATTEND 5:00 P.M. RECEPTION IN HOTEL RECEPTION ROOM WHICH AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL AND AMERICAN ASSOCIATION AND WIVES WOULD PROBABLY WISH TO HOST. THIS WOULD INVOLVE BRIEF INFORMAL REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT FOLLOWED BY QUESTION PERIOD AND A LITTLE TIME TO MINGLE WITH AUDIENCE AND SHAKE HANDS.

4. IN VISITS OF THIS KIND, PRIME MINISTER USUALLY PREFERS TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS IN RELAXED INFORMALITY OF A POOLSIDE BARBECUE DINNER. THEREFORE, IT IS QUITE LIKELY PM LEE KUAN YEW WILL INVITE VICE PRESIDENT AND POSSIBLY ONE OR TWO SENIOR STAFF TO AN INFORMAL POOLSIDE DINNER AT THE ISTANA AT 7:30 OR 8:00 P.M. (IF HE DOES NOT HOST A DINNER, HE WILL PROBABLY HOST A LUNCH AND THE AMBASSADOR WILL HOST THE DINNER).

5. ON MARCH 29, VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. ROCKEFELLER WOULD MAKE FORMAL COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT AND MRS. SHEARES PRIOR TO DEPARTURE AT 11:00 A.M. IF VICE PRESIDENT SO DESIRES, AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE CAN BE ARRANGED PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.

6. CHIEF OF PROTOCOL GEORGE SEOW HAS MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO DCM ABOUT VISIT: (A) NORMALLY, VICE PRESIDENT WOULD CALL ON PRESIDENT SHEARES PRIOR TO MEETING WITH PM LEE. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT SHEARES LIVES IN A PRIVATE HOME AT SOME DISTANCE FROM THE ISTANA, AND ON A SUNDAY WOULD NOT NORMALLY BE AT THE ISTANA. CONSEQUENTLY, WHEN VIPS VISIT SINGAPORE ON SUNDAY, THE CUSTOMARY PRACTICE IS TO MEET WITH PM LEE ON SUNDAY AND PAY A COURTESY CALL ON THE PRESIDENT ON MONDAY MORNING.

(B) SEOW ALSO ADVISED THAT IT WAS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. ROCKEFELLER AND SOME OF THE PARTY WILL BE INVITED TO STAY AT THE ISTANA VILLA AND THE LODGE LOCATED NEAR THE ISTANA COMPLEX. HOWEVER, THESE TWO FACILITIES TOGETHER COULD ACCOMMODATE A MAXIMUM OF ONLY EIGHT PERSONS. ACTION REQUESTED: IF VICE PRESIDENT PREFERS NOT TO HAVE HIS PARTY SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS (BETWEEN ISTANA AND HOTEL - ABOUT 10 MINUTE DRIVE FROM EACH OTHER), PLEASE ADVISE ASAP SO THAT EMBASSY CAN ENDEAVOR TO HEAD OFF INVITATION.

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7. MRS. ROCKEFELLER AND MISS MURPHY WILL OF COURSE BE INCLUDED IN AMBASSADOR'S LUNCHEON AND PARTICIPATE IN COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT AND MRS. SHEARES. HOWEVER, IN EVENT PRIME MINISTER DECIDES TO HOST BARBECUE DINNER IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER IT WILL BE STAG AFFAIR. PM OFTEN PREFERS STAG EVENTS WHEN HE WISHES TO HAVE EXTENDED SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION. IF THIS OCCURS, SEPARATE INFORMAL DINNER HOSTED BY MRS. HOLDRIDGE FOR MRS. ROCKEFELLER AND MISS MURPHY CAN BE ARRANGED. ASSUME MRS. ROCKEFELLER MAY

WISH TO ACCOMPANY VICE PRESIDENT DURING MOST OF THE EVENTS
TO BE SCHEDULED SUNDAY AFTERNOON. ALTERNATIVELY, EMBASSY CAN
ARRANGE TO HAVE MRS. ROCKEFELLER AND MISS MURPHY TOUR MANDAI
ORCHID GARDEN, BOTANIC GARDEN, NATIONAL MUSEUM OR JURONG BIRD
PARK OR VISIT SHOPS OPEN ON SUNDAY.

8. PLEASE ADVISE AGE OF MISS MURPHY.

9. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON PROPOSED PROGRAM. HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SINGAP00673
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760050-0488
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760263/aaaacdot.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 31841, 76 STATE 29889
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VICE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT
TAGS: OVIP, SN, (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006